deteriorating ever since King Gyanendra had assumed direct control of the Nepalese Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the outstanding issues standing in the way of Indo-Nepalese relations and the steps proposed to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The direct takeover by King Gyanendra of Nepal after dissolution of the multi-party Government and subsequent declaration of emergency and suspension of fundamental rights constituted a setback to our relations with Nepal. Since February 1, 2005, India has consistently maintained that the constitutional forces within Nepal must work together with a view to find a peaceful democratic political solution to the challenges facing Nepal, foremost among which is the Maoist insurgency.

(c) India has maintained an ongoing dialogue with Nepal to address issues relating to our mutual economic, commercial and security concerns keeping in view our open border and the prevailing situation in Nepal.

Desalination plants in coastal areas

†1051. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up treatment plants in coastal areas to treat the saline water to provide drinking water to the people;

(b) if so, whether the sites for the purpose have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The Department of Ocean Development is involved in design, development, demonstration and commission of Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) Plants for conversion of saline water into drinking water.

One such plant with a capacity of 1 lakh liter/day was installed in May, 2005 in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep to provide fresh water. This is a land based plant.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Currently the Department of Ocean Development is working on the design and development of Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD), barge based plant with a capacity of 10 lakh litre per day off Chennai.

Indian migrants in Oman's Sohar jail

1052. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many Indian migrants in Oman's Sohar jail for various offences related to migration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Indians in the above jail and the states to which they belong, category-wise, as on today;

(c) the steps taken, if any for the release of the above migrants; and

(d) the steps likely to be initiated so that Indian migrants reach the foreign sponsor only through the Indian embassy?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per the information received by the Embassy of India, Muscat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman, there are eleven persons supposedly of Indian origin who have been detained in Sohar Detention Centre for want of any identification. Names and dates of detention of these persons are given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The Embassy of India, Muscat is coordinating with the local authorities for ascertaining nationality of these persons and is taking appropriate steps in order to ensure their early release.

(d) No such proposal is being contemplated at present.

Statement

List of Indians Detained in Sohar Detention Centre

Sl. No.	Name	Date of detention
1.	Shri Mohammed Saleem Raj	18.07.2005
2.	Shri Tamil Ramesh	16.10.2005